

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 FRB-03 XMB-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

IO-10 COME-00 OPIC-03 L-03 CPR-01 /089 W

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P 012055Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8223

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BL

SUBJ: GOB/BANK OF BOSTON SEMINAR

REF: A. LA PAZ 5288 B, STATE 187034

1. BANK OF BOSTON'S LOCAL ASSISTANT MANAGER JOHN H CHAMBERLAIN HAS GIVEN EMBASSY COPY OF INVITATION/INFORMATION SHEET ON SEMINAR WHICH INDICATES AFTERNOON SESSION WILL HAVE PRESENTATIONS BY SENIOR WASHINGTON AGENCY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING STATE DEPT, EXIM BANK, IADB, IBRD, OPIC AND OTHERS. HE SAID THERE IS CONSIDERABLE US BUSINESS INTEREST IN SEMINAR AND BANK OF BOSTON HAS RECEIVED 650 RESERVATIONS FOR WALDORF ASTORIA LUNCH. CHAMBERLAIN ALSO SAID HE HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT OPIC PLANS TO SIGN PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH GOB.

2. GOB OFFICIALS HAVE ASKED EMBASSY ABOUT STATUS OF PLANS FOR MINISTER PLANNING AND COORDINATION LECHIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 16.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF STATUS OF PLANS FOR LECHIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON. (B) ALSO REQUEST INFORMATION ON OPIC PLANS WITH RESPECT TO "PARTICIPATION
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AGREEMENT" WITH GOB AS WELL AS ROLE OPIC AND OTHER USG AGENCIES

INTEND TO PLAY IN SEMINAR. AS DEPARTMENT AND OPIC AWARE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE ARE SOME SECTORS OF BOLIVIAN ECONOMY IN WHICH FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS PRESENTLY OR POTENTIALLY POLITICALLY SENSITIVE. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT EMBASSY DOES NOT RECOGNIZE AND APPLAUD BOLIVIA'S MUCH IMPROVED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CLIMATE OR THE BEGINNING OF INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH BOLIVIA AND PRIVATE US FIRMS. HOWEVER, SOME OF INVESTMENT POLICIES WHICH THE GOB WILL DISCUSS AT THE SEMINAR ARE BARELY OUT OF OR ARE STILL IN THE FORMATIVE STAGE AND THE EMBASSY HAS NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THEM IN THE CONTEXT OF BOLIVIA'S POLITICAL SITUATION. WHILE WE DO NOT OPPOSE OPIC'S PRESENCE AT THE SEMINAR, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR OPIC OR OTHER AGENCIES TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF A BLANKET USG ENDORSEMENT OF THE GOB'S INVESTMENT PROMOTION EFFORTS. WE SUGGEST IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO LISTEN TO WHAT GOB OFFICIALS HAVE TO SAY AT SEMINAR, EVALUATE THIS IN LIGHT OF ACTUAL BOLIVIAN SITUATION, AND CONSIDER US INVESTMENT PROPOSALS AS APPROPRIATE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

4. SEMINAR GROUP WILL ARRIVE NEW YORK CITY ON LUFTHANSA FLIGHT 493, OCTOBER 11, 1975 AT 21:40 HOURS AND WILL INCLUDE MIN PLAN & COORDINATION GENERAL JUAN LECHIN; CARLOS CALVO; ADALBERTO VIOLAND; HECTOR ORMACHEA; PLUS FOUR TO SIX OTHER PERSONS INCLUDING MEMBER OF BOLIVIAN PRESS. WE REQUEST USUAL USG COURTESIES FOR GROUP IN NEW YORK. NEW BANK OF BOSTON CONTACT IS MR JACK VAUGHAN, TELEPHONE (617) 434-3930.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAPAZ06892
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750340-0864
From: LA PAZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751093/aaaadevx.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LA PAZ 5288, 75 STATE 187034
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOB/BANK OF BOSTON SEMINAR
TAGS: BEXP, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006